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Dkt. 2271/75741



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application of: Masanori HIRANO et al.

Serial No.: 10/565,136

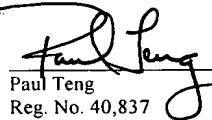
Int'l Appln. No. PCT/JP2004/011382

Date Filed: January 18, 2006

Int'l Filing Date: 30 July 2004

For: IMAGE REPRODUCING AND FORMING APPARATUS, PRINTER DRIVE AND DATA PROCESSING APPARATUS

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

  
Paul Teng

Reg. No. 40,837

July 12, 2006

Date

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

In accordance with the applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §1.97, Applicant hereby submits this Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the references listed on Form PTO-1449 attached hereto. Copies of the references are also enclosed herewith.

The references listed on the annexed Form PTO-1449 were cited in May 16, 2006 official actions in connection with corresponding Japanese patent applications. Copies of the May 16, 2006 Japanese official actions are enclosed herewith. Other references (JP11-20799, JP2001-270139, JP07-314734 and JP2001-270139) which are also cited in (one or both of) the Japanese official actions were submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 18, 2006 and therefore are not being listed on the Form PTO-1449 annexed hereto.

It is respectfully requested that the information cited in the annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner in connection with the above-identified patent application, and that such art be made of record in said application.

The citation of the listed item is not a representation that it constitutes a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the item is prior art. The item listed is submitted in good faith, but is not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of the particular item, it will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

This Information Disclosure is submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3). To the best of Applicants' knowledge, a first Office Action on the merits has not been issued in this application.

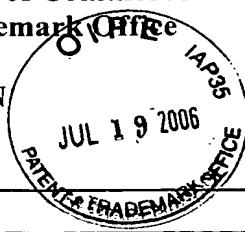
Alternatively, Applicant requests consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c)(1).

Applicant hereby state that each item of information contained in the Form PTO-1449 annexed to this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

If any additional fee is required for consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		Atty. Docket No. 2271/75741	Serial No. 10/565,136											
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				Applicants: Masanori HIRANO et al.												
				Filing Date: January 18, 2006	Group Art Unit: 2853											
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS																
Examiner Initial		Document Number		Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate								
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS																
		Document Number				Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation						
		JP	2	-	1	6	7	7	5	5	06/28/1990	Japan			Abstract	
		JP	4	-	1	9	7	6	3	8	07/17/1992	Japan			Abstract	
		JP	6	-	8	4	7	4			01/18/1994	Japan			Abstract	
		JP	6	-	1	9	8	9	1	5	07/19/1994	Japan			Abstract	
		JP	9	-	1	2	3	4	3	1	05/13/1997	Japan			Abstract	
		JP	2001	-	7	1	4	7	9		03/21/2001	Japan			Abstract	
		JP	2003	-1	1	8	0	9	6		04/23/2003	Japan			Abstract	
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)																
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED												
<p>*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609: Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.</p>																